

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2332

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1911

EXDIS

E.O#311652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV PINS GV

SUBJECT: SOVIET SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS AND GUINEAN SECURITY WORRIES

REF: (A) CONAKRY 1538, (B) CONAKRY 1766, (C) STATE 230184

1. SEVERAL FACTORS WILL BE PUSHING SEKOU TOURE
TOWARD RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION TO BAN SOVIET
RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS. HE CONTINUES TO PERCEIVE
AN IMMINENT THREAT FROM GUINEAN DISSIDENTS IN IVORY
COAST AND SENEGAL. WHILE BEARS THEMSELVES ARE NOT
RELEVANT TO THIS THREAT--DIAKITE ACKNOWLEDGED (REFTEL A)
THAT GOG NO LONGER FEARED ATTACK BY SEA-- SOVIET POWER
IS. TOURE MUST ALSO BE UNDER PRESSURE FROM PRO-SOVIET
COLLEAGUES SUCH AS MAMADI KEITA AND LOUIS BEHANZIN WHO
CAN ARGUE THAT REBUFFING THE USSR ON BEAR DEPLOYMENTS
ENDANGERS THE TOURE REGIME'S RELATIONS WITH ITS ONLY
REAL GUARANTOR. FINALLY, THERE IS EVIKUNCE THAT GOG
AND USSR HAVE SETTLED THEIR MOST DIVISIVE
SLATERAL ISSUE, OBK BAUXITE PRICING AND EXPORT TAXES.

2. DESPITE THESE CONSIDERATIONS, I DO NOT BELIEVE
PRESIDENT TOURE IS LIKELY TO PERMIT RESUMPTION SOVIET
FLIGHTS AFTER ONLY ONE MONTH'S HIATUS. HE PROBABLY
WISHES TO REPRIMAND SOVIETS FOR ABUSING THEIR UNDER-
STANDING WITH HIM. HE MAY HAVE BEEN USING
FLIGHTS AS BARGAINING COUNTER WITH SOVIETS ON OTHER
ISSUES. HE WOULD PREFER NOT TO LOSE IMPORTANT
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PL 480 SHIPMENTS, AND OUR ARGUMENTS RELATING TO GUINEAN

SOVEREIGNTY AND TRUE NONALIGNMENT PROBABLY REACHED HIM. MY GUESS IS THAT WE HAVE MINIMUM OF ONE MORE MONTH (OCTOBER) WITHOUT RESUMPTION OF DEPLOYMENTS EVEN IF US FAILS TOTALLY TO RESPOND TO GUINEAN SECURITY CONCERNS.

3. HOWEVER, MOUSSA DIAKITE FIRST REQUESTED "SECURITY GUARANTY" ON JULY 30. AFTER SEVEN WEEKS WITHOUT ANY RESPONSE FROM US BEYOND SECRETARY'S PROMISE TO STUDY THE MATTER GUINEANS ARE BEGINNING TO DOUBT OUR INTEREST. TO PREVENT DISILLUSION WITH US AND CONSEQUENCES THIS COULD ENTAIL, I WOULD LIKE BY OCTOBER 1 TO BE AUTHORIZED AT LEAST TO ASSURE GOG THAT SPECIFIC APPROACHES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION, OR THAT US WILL BE CONSULTING WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS OR TAKING SOME ALTERNATIVE ACTION BY A PARTICULAR DATE. WHAT WE NEED IS ANOTHER SIGNAL THAT US INDEED TAKES GOG CONCERNS SERIOUSLY AND IS WILLING AT LEAST TO

DISCUSS THEM CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH OTHERS.

4. OUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO KEEP A DIALOGUE OPEN ON THESE MATTERS IN WAY WHICH WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR TOURE TO ARGUE THAT SINCE US IS DOING NOTHING HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO TURN BACK TO SOVIETS. IF WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY GUINEAN EXILES OR THIRD FORCES POSSESS THE RESOURCES OR ORGANIZATION OR WILL TO ATTACK THIS COUNTRY WE OUGHT TO SHARE THIS IMONCLUSION WITH TOURE. WHILE MORE RUMORS AND PHONY CONFESIONS WILL KEEP CROPPING UP, THERE APPEARS LITTLE DANGER OF OVERT ACTION FROM OUTSIDE, AND WE DON'T RISK OR INVEST MUCH IN CARRYING THROUGH SOMETHING ALONG LINES OF EMBTEL SUGGESTIONS.

HARROP

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